



## Committee on City Services and the Northampton City Council

### Committee Members:

*Councilor Dennis P. Bidwell*

*Councilor Maureen T. Carney*

*Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge*

*Councilor Ryan R. O'Donnell*

### MEETING AGENDA

**Date: June 7, 2016**

**Time: 4:00 pm**

**Location: City Council Chambers  
212 Main St., Northampton, Massachusetts**

- 1. Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call:** At 4:02 p.m. Councilor Carney called the meeting to order. Present at the meeting were: Councilors Bidwell, Carney, LaBarge, and O'Donnell. No other City Councilors were present. Councilor O'Donnell left the meeting at 5:05 p.m.
- 2. Public Comment: None**
- 3. Minutes of Previous Meetings:** Councilor Bidwell moved to approve the minutes of May 19, 2016; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.
- 4. Departmental Presentation: Health Dept. Regarding Update on Opioid Epidemic**

Cherry Sullivan, the Public Health Department's Program Coordinator, was present to speak about the Opioid Epidemic and gave a PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Sullivan explained that she is the program coordinator for Hampshire Hope which is the opioid abuse and prevention coalition for Hampshire County. The coalition has been in existence since March, 2015. In Jan. 2015, the City of Northampton received a collaborative grant through the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (an arm of the Department of Public Health). The purpose of the grant is aimed at preventing the use/abuse of opioid drugs and prevent/reduce fatal and non-fatal overdoses through local policy, practice, and systems changes. The grant is a three-year grant with the option to renew for another two years. The State's model, called a cluster model, means that one community will apply for and administer the grant while partnering with other communities (in this case, Easthampton, Amherst, Pelham, Belchertown, South Hadley, and Ware). The work done under the auspice of this grant is coordinated with the Hampshire District Attorney's Office. Ms. Sullivan reports that there are other grants that are administered in Northampton that address the opioid crisis at this time, including the

Northampton Prevention Coalition (a Federal Grant administered through the School District) and the Collaborative for Educational Services (also from the State's Bureau of Substance Abuse Services).

Ms. Sullivan reports that all of the Coalitions across the state are using a similar Strategic Prevention Framework model that has the following components: Assessment, Capacity Building, Strategic Planning, Implementation, and Evaluation.

Hampshire Hope is the overarching coalition in the county. There is an Executive Committee consisting of leaders from about ten sectors within the community. The Executive Committee is the governing and decision making body of the coalition. In addition, there are five different working groups: Youth Prevention, Outreach and Communication, Healthcare Solutions, Law Enforcement, Justice and Corrections, and Treatment Intervention and Recovery. Members self-select into one of the working groups based on their interest or their expertise. The working groups meet monthly. In addition to the working groups defined under the grant, as the Program Coordinator for Hampshire Hope, Ms. Sullivan also coordinates with the City's Housing Partnership Committee.

The Coalition uses data from several sources:

- Non-intentional Overdose Fatality data from the DPH or Mass State Police
- Treatment Statistics form Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
- Prevention Needs Assessment Survey data from School Districts
- Narcan use from Tapestry Health and Learn to Cope (parent support group)
- Personal Interviews conducted by the Program Coordinator
- Talking points from Governor Baker's 2015 meeting in Greenfield
- Overdose surveillance data from hospitals, Police, Fire, Emergency Room and Ambulance services
- Survey and Focus Group data from 18-24 year old participants
- Data from surveys sent to medical providers, including dentists, sports medicine, and ortho providers
- Interview data from Drug Diversion & Treatment Program participants

Ms. Sullivan shared Unintentional Opioid Overdose Death Rate data from 2010 – 2015. The data shows that the number of deaths in Hampshire County is less per 100,000 than Franklin County and the State of Massachusetts. The Coalition is still working to find out why the numbers have dropped in this region.

As of June 6, 2016, there are three Northampton deaths as a result of overdose. As of March, 2016, the Police Dept. had 11 calls requesting the use of Narcan. Ms Sullivan also shared data pertaining to admissions to BSAS Programs. Veterans are a very vulnerable population; there are programs at the VA Medical Center that are working to address the issues.

Ms. Sullivan reports that in Hampshire County there is a reduction in the number of students who have used narcotic prescription drugs without a prescription in the past thirty days. Youth in this area have a high perception of harm associated with the use of opioid drugs. Their perception around the harm of alcohol and marijuana does not follow that of opioid drugs. Many youth report that they get the drugs from their home, a friend's home; someone gave it to them, etc. One of the strategies to combat this is to get the drugs off the street. Drug collection sites are now available at various locations, including the Police Department on Center Street.

Steps to combat the issue of misused prescription opioid drugs:

- Expand and sustain medication drop off boxes
- Launch of a "Safe Storage" campaign
- "Screening Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment" (SBIRT) where school nurses interview and evaluate risky behaviors in students
- Plans to pilot SBIRT in pediatric visits.

To address the issue regarding too many people fatally overdosing on heroin and prescription opioid drugs, the task force is working on the following:

- Save lives by informing the public about the “Good Samaritan” Laws and to encourage people to call 911 if an overdose is suspected;
- Provide training and resources for Police Departments;
- Improving transitional and aftercare support for those released from jail, treatment programs, and emergency rooms
- Drug diversion and treatment program;
- PMP training and technical assistance

Other initiatives include:

- The NPD has launched the DART program whereby a police officer will follow-up with a patient to ask if the person is interested in further and future treatment opportunities.
- The Hampshire County Jail has a re-entry roundtable to help those about to leave the jail with finding resources about how to prevent an overdose. They are given Narcan and are also given the opportunity to have an in-take interview with a behavioral health program

Gaps in the systems need to be closed and this can be done by:

- Increasing referrals to Medication Assisted Treatment
- Improve integration of primary care physician and SUD/BH
- Developing a more robust recovery service program
- Increasing training and access to Narcan

Ms. Sullivan has indicated that the State has reallocated more funds toward treatment programs. As more strategies are identified in the future, the Coalition may come forward and ask for support from the City Council, especially if there are policy related concerns.

Councilor Bidwell noted that anecdotally it is suggested that panhandling in the downtown is done to support the drug habits of those involved in the activity. He wondered if there was any data relating to this and whether a proposal to establish a collection type program would be a good idea. Ms. Sullivan thinks that the City should continue to support those that do a good job at reaching out to those in need of services. There is the cot shelter/resource center; Service Net on Center Street, and Elliot House for Human Services. These agencies have contact with people out on the street and know best what the needs are for those on the street, whether panhandling or engaged in some related activity. Ms. Sullivan supports prevention approaches to problems to avoid paying for problems downstream. The City and the Coalition should continue to partner with these agencies to find out what the solutions are. Councilor Bidwell wondered if there were examples of where funds were diverted into good programs that serve the community in positive ways. Ms. Sullivan does not know the answer to this question but suggested perhaps Peg Keller might be able to better respond to this question. Finding funding for space is a good use of money, however, the space needs to be safe and well staffed to support long term recovery. Ms. Sullivan believes that the housing and opioid issue is tightly related. There appeared to be an increase in the number of opioid users who needed housing.

Councilor O'Donnell wondered how much the Coalition could address the root of the issue. Ms. Sullivan indicates that there are many roots to the problem, some of which can be addressed by the Coalition. Prescriber practices can be addressed with legislation and policy. Hospitals and physicians are getting on board with tightening the prescriptions they prescribe to patients. They also have a better understanding about how overprescribing has lead to this epidemic. Deeper, however, are the issues of poverty, safety, and lack of preventive resources. Putting money into programs in schools and identifying safe housing are two key areas in which the Coalition can promote the concern and ask for resources to address the problem(s).

## **5. Items Referred to Committee:**

#### **A. 16.078 Appointments to Various Committees - Referred to Committee on May 5, 2016**

Councilor Bidwell spoke regarding the following appointments:

- (1) Re-appointment of Joanne Levin to the Board of Health: Councilor Bidwell placed a call to Ms. Levin; however, he did not have a chance to speak with her. While he does not know Ms. Levin personally, he knows that she has served as Chair of the Board and is highly regarded in this role.
- (2) Appointment of Bridget Goggins & Melissa Frydlo to the Central Business Architecture Commission: Councilor Bidwell spoke to both candidates and reports that they are both very excited about joining the committee. In the case of Bridget Goggins, Councilor Bidwell learned that Ms. Goggins has just returned to the area after pursuing green construction, community preservation and sustainability issues. Ms. Goggins is extremely qualified to act on this Board and is eager to get started. Melissa Frydlo has a career in construction supervision and has a background in interior design and landscape architecture. She was involved in several construction projects in the City, including Smith College Library and the Police Station construction.

Councilor LaBarge spoke about the following appointment:

- (1) Council on Aging: Re-appointment of Robert Montague; Councilor LaBarge spoke with Mr. Montague on May 29, 2016. She knows Mr. Montague personally and learned that he has great interest in being re-appointed to the committee. He has been involved with the committee since 2014 and has been the Chair for one year. He enjoys working with seniors and the staff. He has done a lot of volunteer work for Senior Services and has been appointed by the Mayor to be on the search committee for a new Director of Senior Services.
- (2) Disability Commission: Re-appointment of James Winston: Councilor LaBarge knows Mr. Winston and also had a chance to talk with him by phone. He has great interest in being re-appointed to the Commission; he enjoys working with people who have varying limitations by being a voice on their behalf. He is an attorney who specializes in helping clients with disabilities.

Councilor Carney spoke with the following candidates:

- (1) Energy & Sustainability Commission: Re-appointment of Mary Biddle, Adin Maynard & Scott Silver: Councilor Carney feels that the committee is fortunate to have all three members on the committee. Ms. Biddle is between jobs right now, however, she enjoys working on the committee and is currently acting as the committee's recording secretary. She has been involved in the streetlight discussion. Mr. Maynard runs a small business in the energy sector. He hopes that he can convince the committee to take a closer look at energy benefits in the residential sector. He believes that we are not taking full advantage of the opportunities that exist for residents. Scott Silver works for a company called Neresco which is an energy conservation company. He is fully prepared and looking forward to serving another term on that committee.
- (2) Planning Board: Move Dan Felton from Associate Member to Full Member: Councilor Carney reports that Dan Felton currently works as an engineer and has been involved before by participating on the Storm Water Task Force and has been closely involved with other City projects. He is looking forward to serving as a full member on the board.

Councilor O'Donnell feels confident that the following candidates can fulfill the obligations as needed by the individual committees based upon the fact that they are reappointments: (1) Community Preservation

Committee on City Services Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2016

Committee: Re-appointment of Brian Adams; (2) Conservation Commission: Re-appointment of C. Mason Maronn & Appointment of Jason Perry. Councilor Bidwell knows Brian Adams and supports his re-appointment. In speaking with the Chair of the Conservation Commission, Councilor Bidwell learned that C. Mason Maronn is the longest serving member of the Conservation Commission and is a valued member of that committee. He also reports that the Conservation Commission Chair was not aware that a new appointment to the Committee was being brought forward. As a common courtesy he would like to know when new members are being added to the Board. Councilor Bidwell suggested that re-visiting the procedures of adding new members to committees might be of value. The Commission Chair has asked the Mayor in the past to let him know when new candidates are being brought forward. Councilor Bidwell points out that while there are no procedures in place requiring the Mayor to notify the Chair, it seems that it would be common sense and common courtesy to do so. Councilor LaBarge noted that the Mayor's Office does have a list that identifies when membership starts and ends; perhaps the Chair could make use of that list.

Councilor O'Donnell moved to return all of the appointments back to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.

Councilor Carney noted that due to the schedule change of the upcoming City Council meeting, all candidates will be automatically appointed to their respective committees. This is as a result of the Council not voting on the candidates within the forty-five day window (as stipulated by Charter). Article II, Section 2-10 stipulates that "Appointments made by the mayor shall become effective on the forty-fifth day after the date on which notice of the proposed appointment was filed with the city clerk unless approved or rejected by the city council within the 45 days."

B. The Committee did not discuss the following appointments; they will be taken up at the June 28, 2016 meeting (Note: Councilor name in parenthesis indicates person assigned to speak with candidate):

16.113 Appointments to Committees - Referred to Committee on June 2, 2016

**Re-Appointments to the Board of Registrars:**

Charles Klepacki of 26 Ferry Avenue (Councilor Carney)

Janet Larson of 982 Florence Road, Florence (Councilor Carney)

**Re-Appointment to the Central Business Architecture Committee:**

Bruce Kriviskey of 23 Ice Pond Drive, Florence (Councilor O'Donnell)

**Re-Appointment to the Disability Commission:**

Hannah Coyle of 3 Hampton Avenue (Councilor LaBarge)

**Appointment to the Disability Commission:**

Judith Kimberly of 659 Park Hill Road, Florence (Councilor LaBarge)

**Appointment to the Housing Partnership:**

Greta Hagen of 16 Market Street, #2C (Councilor Bidwell)

**Re-Appointment to the Housing Partnership:**

Gordon Shaw of 582 Haydenville Road, Leeds (Councilor Bidwell)

**6. Committee to Discuss Topics of Interest for August 1, 2016 Departmental Presentation**

**Veterans Services is scheduled to present to the committee:** Veteran's Services is unable to present at the August 1, 2016 meeting due to conflicting vacation schedules. The Committee had discussed the possibility of having the Parks and Recreation Committee come on August 1<sup>st</sup>, however, the Director has a scheduled vacation.

**7. New Business:** No new business, however, Councilor Carney reminded the committee that the Mayor will be present on June 28<sup>th</sup> to present and discuss the 2015 Parking Study.

**8. Adjourn:** At 5:10 p.m. Councilor Bidwell moved to adjourn the meeting; Councilor LaBarge seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 3 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent (Councilor O'Donnell).

*Prepared By:*

*P. Powers, Administrative Assistant to the City Council*

*413.587.1210; [ppowers@northamptonma.gov](mailto:ppowers@northamptonma.gov)*